

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
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October 20, 2008

William D. Silva, Esq.
5335 Wisconsin Avenue NW, Suite 400
Washington, DC 20015-2003

Re: Big Broadcasting Company, Inc.
WBIG (AM), Aurora, Illinois
Facility Identification Number: 5217
Special Temporary Authority

Dear Counsel:

This is in reference to the request filed October 16, 2008, on behalf of Big Broadcasting Company, Inc. ("BBC"). BBC requests special temporary authority ("STA") to operate Station WBIG with parameters at variance and/or reduced power while maintaining monitor points within licensed limits.¹ In support of the request, BBC states that a tower immediately adjacent to the WBIG array was damaged by a helicopter, and that the damage to the adjacent structure is affecting the operation of its antenna system.

Accordingly, the request for STA IS HEREBY GRANTED. Station WBIG may operate with parameters at variance and/or reduced power while maintaining monitor points within licensed limits. It will be necessary to further reduce power or cease operation if complaints of interference are received. BBC must notify the Commission when licensed operation is restored.² BBC must use whatever means are necessary to protect workers and the public from exposure to radio frequency radiation in excess of the Commission's exposure guidelines. *See* 47 CFR § 1.1310.

This authority expires on **April 20, 2009**.

STA Advisory: Section 309(f) of the Communications Act of 1934, as amended, authorizes the Commission to grant STA in cases of "extraordinary circumstances requiring temporary authorizations in the public interest and when delay in the institution of the temporary operations would seriously prejudice the public interest." However, Section 309(f) is not a means by which a licensee/permittee may circumvent established processing procedures which require the filing of an application, nor is it a means by which a broadcaster may enhance his facility or make

¹ WBIG is licensed for operation on 1280 kHz with 1 kilowatt daytime and 0.5 kilowatt nighttime, employing different directional antenna patterns daytime and nighttime (DA-2-U).

² *See* 47 CFR §§ 73.45(c), 73.51, 73.54, 73.61(b).

operation more convenient for the broadcaster. Stations operating with less than licensed facilities under temporary authorities can be viewed as receiving the benefit of a larger protection area than that in which they are currently providing service.

Accordingly, Special Temporary Authorities by nature are to be temporary and are not intended for extended use. Licensees of stations operating under temporary authorities are reminded that timely restoration of permanent facilities is the responsibility of the licensee and should be undertaken expeditiously. Any request for extension of special temporary authorities carries an increased burden with each subsequent request.

Therefore, requests for extension of STA will be granted only where the licensee can show that one or more of the following criteria have been met:

- Restoration of licensed facilities is complete and testing is underway;
- Substantial progress has been made during the most recent STA period toward restoration of licensed operation; or
- No progress has been made during the most recent STA period for reasons clearly beyond the licensee's control, and the licensee has taken all possible steps to expeditiously resolve the problem.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Charles N. Miller", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Charles N. Miller, Engineer
Audio Division
Media Bureau

cc: Big Broadcasting Company, Inc.